Written by Michael Woods
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Bernard Hopkins was in rare form on Wednesday in NYC, at a press conference to hype his April 28 rematch against Chad Dawson.

To be specific, Hopkins, normally a rhetorical wizard, was quieter, and surlier, than we're used to seeing. It leaves one wondering just where his head is at a couple months before his re-do against the young gun Dawson. They scrapped, you'll recall, in October in Cali. The match ended two minutes into round two, when the combatants locked up, and Dawson dumped Hopkins (52-5-2; turned 47 on Jan. 15) on his back. The 47 year-old light heavyweight titlist's left shoulder got tweaked, and he grimaced in pain. Ref Pat Russell asked him if he could go, he said no, and Russell halted the bout, giving the W to Dawson. That win was reversed when

Golden Boy protested on Hopkins' behalf, so the loss became a No Contest, and Hopkins' belt was returned.

At Planet Hollywood in NY, I expected Hopkins to go off, and blast Dawson (30-1; age 29) and his team, including trainer John Scully and promoter Gary Shaw for alleging that Hopkins' shoulder wasn't that injured, and that he was looking for a way out.

Instead, Bernard chose silence. He blew off his turn at the mike, and it looked like he was contemplating bolting the event. He whispered with GB's Richard Schaefer, eff bombs apparent to a lip reader. He did spend time doing cluster TV and print interviews, but vet fightwriters noted that he was in a contentious mode, and sparred with them verbally.

Hopkins didn't seem to like the insinuations that his shoulder wasn't truly hurt, and that he didn't want a rematch. So rather than litigate the issues, he changed the topics, and put the questioners on the defensive. He is a master, still of psychological operations. Is he still a master in the ring? We shall see in Atlantic City, a kind jurisdiction to the Philly sage, April…

Check out my video report which was posted on the Boxing Channel here .

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**mortcola says:**

ya know, human beings are bored with or threatened by reality, so they replace it with something imaginary that gives them what they wish for, e.g. Obama is a Muslim and a socialist, when he's really a Christian, business-friendly moderate. Pacquiao is on 'roids, right, in spite of all available evidence pointing to the contrary, and none pointing to the fantasy. Problem is, those facts bore people who need to hate, so, replace them with a spicy fiction and convince yourself that you're justified - we call it rationalization, giving a rational sounding justification to something that exists only in your mind. Some people say Dawson had his way, but this is imaginary - he landed , what, 5 punches? Some people, including poor dull Chad, say that Hopkins pulled a stunt, and that he should have fought with one finger - sorry, reality is that Chad tossed him, the injury was medically verified. Simple verifiable facts. Dull to those who need sizzling salacious silliness in order to get through the next five minutes. But, reality is someone will beat someone in the ring that night; fact is that talented Chad is a mild-mannered underachiever who is clumsily trying to create a new appearance for himself by acting like "Bad

Chad" and talking low-quality trash. Know-wa-ah-mean, know-wa-ah-mean? Reality, baby, as close as you can get, I recommend it. Then, when the magic happens, in reality, it is so much sweeter.

**brownsugar says:**

Gotta love Mortcola..the man is a visionary and a poet to say the least..... the facts according to GARP is that Bhop folded his body over Dawson is a very uncomfortable fashion while trying to dig his elbow into some tender spots on Dawsons backside... I concede that Dawson did over react ... and I give the old vet a 45% chance of pulling out a victory.. but if the real Chad shows up we'll see an amazing tactical war with Chads youth skill and determination carrying the day. Wow... can't wait!

**mortcola says:**

[QUOTE=brownsugar;13868]Gotta love Mortcola..the man is a visionary and a poet to say the least..... the facts according to GARP is that Bhop folded his body over Dawson is a very uncomfortable fashion while trying to dig his elbow into some tender spots on Dawsons backside... I concede that Dawson did over react ... and I give the old vet a 45% chance of pulling out a victory.. but if the real Chad shows up we'll see an amazing tactical war with Chads youth skill and determination carrying the day. Wow... can't wait![/QUOTE]

You are correct in everything excellent you say about me....LOL. I think B-Hop ended up draped up there after missing a punch....not to say he wasn't gonna do something funky at some point, but, to me, the drama hadn't started yet when MadChad decided to get all badass. Yeah, B-Hop is gonna have to weave some serious spell to offset Chad's physical gifts, but its gonna be worth watching.

**brownsugar says:**

I kinda hope Bhop can win it,...it would rock the boxing world as we know it.

**Radam G says:**

Danggit! What HAPPENED? Mortcola musta done some optical illusion jive and got inside of my noggin somehow and keyboard tapped and zapped out my spit. I was going to scibble exactly what he scripted. Dude thought jacked and Houdini-fied me. What da double fudge! Hehehe!

Very, very well said, mortcola. Way to tell 'em! I'll just get on my hola hola. What you spit was worth more than moola. Don't be surprised, when every now and than, I will be borrowing dat nicely-put spit. Holla!

**gpike says:**

We all interpret reality selectively. Hopkins had a medically verified injury. Perhaps. But he was

headed for a difficult night against Dawson. That seems like a more germane detail about reality than his shoulder injury. I'm a BHOP fan and hope he wins but the reality is he's 48 years old and Chad Dawson is a bore but no chump. All evidence about accusations of steroid abuse regarding Manny P. suggests he is innocent? Other than he's never been caught I don't know what evidence you are referring to. His seemingly enlarged cranium? His ability to maintain as well as gain power and speed as he moved up from 105 to 147? His recent leg cramping in not one but two fights? Why would a 32 year old athlete with legs like Manny's cramp up on fight night not once but twice unless...? Love Manny, he's great for the sport but i can't help but when you get the kind of results he's gotten over the years, it's hard not to be suspicious.

**Radam G says:**

It is pure speculation and wishing that B-Hop was "headed for a difficult night against Dawson." Whatever, whatever is in the eyes of the beholder, just like beauty. On the night in question, a lot of dudes and their dates saw B-Hop about ready to get in to Super Bad Chad's a$$, breakin' him off sumptin,' sumptin' and conduct school.

Reality distortion and inattention blindness can feed a brain what you are looking and hoping for, despite what your eyeballs have to said. I'm reminded of the saying, "Believe half or what you see..." Because you darn sure did not see SBC doing _____!

Athletes get cramps all the darn times. Sometimes on game or fight night five to 25 or more in a roll. Those in bitnezz [business] know this. It is nothing suspicious about it, except for those who are not in da know and want suspicious syet to be. Some people vomit, vomit and vomit before a game or fight. It is just their biology, and has nothing to do with roids or PEDs. Holla!

**mortcola says:**

Radam, something very strange is happening here....I was in a haze, and I swear I was channeling you, only ahead of time. Great minds sometimes do think alike.....creepy science fiction screenplay popping into my head. Why don't you start it, and I'll jump in?

**mortcola says:**

[QUOTE=gpike;13893]We all interpret reality selectively. Hopkins had a medically verified injury. Perhaps. But he was headed for a difficult night against Dawson. That seems like a more germane detail about reality than his shoulder injury. I'm a BHOP fan and hope he wins but the reality is he's 48 years old and Chad Dawson is a bore but no chump. All evidence about accusations of steroid abuse regarding Manny P. suggests he is innocent? Other than he's never been caught I don't know what evidence you are referring to. His seemingly enlarged cranium? His ability to maintain as well as gain power and speed as he moved up from 105 to 147? His recent leg cramping in not one but two fights? Why would a 32 year old athlete with legs like Manny's cramp up on fight night not once but twice unless...? Love Manny, he's great for the sport but i can't help but when you get the kind of results he's gotten over the years, it's hard not to be suspicious.[/QUOTE]

Re-read my post. If you can't tell the difference between conclusions drawn from speculation upon unverifiable and unscientific opinions, and conclusions drawn from available evidence - things that actually happen - then you're in dream-land. When you say "evidence...other than he's never been caught", you are saying something actually humorously ridiculous. That is the single best piece of evidence. Otherwise, anything else you feel like imagining, because it brings you pleasure and a sense of power to imagine it, is fair game. Like "Hopkins was headed for a difficult night"....other than the fact that anytime you fight a talented world champ, you are in for a hard night, you are describing the contents of your imagination, as though the thing that didn't happen somehow did. Obama's a Muslim, the government is hiding alien corpses at Roswell, Radam is my double....delusions feel absolutely real, and people can't be convinced by facts to give them up. By definition. They argue harder when the flaws are revealed to them. Reality over imagination, GPike, unless you're entertaining people or making art, or psychotic.

**dino da vinci says:**

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I agree with mortcola on everything but the alien corpses. I don't live all that far from area 51 and living in Vegas seen things that are more MIB than not. Oh, and Hopkins might be an alien. I'd be certain if he'd of started his career at 105 pounds, but that's a story for another time.